

Message Text

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65

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS ON FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS

1. APPEARING BELOW FOR YOUR INFORMATION IS AN EXTRACT FROM AN INTERVIEW OF PRESIDENT FORD BY HEARST NEWSPAPERS EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS ON FEBRUARY 24. THE EXTRACT, CONCERNING PRESENT AMERICAN-FRENCH RELATIONS, DID NOT APPEAR IN THE PUBLISHED ACCOUNT OF THE INTERVIEW.

2. BEGIN TEXT: THE PRESIDENT: I CAN SAY AMERICAN-FRENCH RELATIONS TODAY ARE FAR, FAR BETTER THAN THEY HAVE BEEN AT ANY TIME IN THE LAST 15 YEARS.

QUESTION: I WILL AGREE WITH THAT.

THE PRESIDENT: PRESIDENT GISCARD AND MYSELF HAVE A GOOD PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP AND THE WORKING RELATIONSHIP BELOW THAT LEVEL IS ALSO EXCELLENT. THE NET RESULT IS THAT WE ARE WORKING MUCH MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER AND ARE HAVING FAR
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FEWER PUBLIC DISPUTES THAN EXISTED IN THE YEARS GONE BY.

END TEXT.

3. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE FRENCH EMBASSY HAS ALSO OBTAINED
A COPY OF THE TRANSCRIPT AND IS REPORTING THE PASSAGE ABOVE
TO THE QUAL. INGERSOLL

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